

at whose suggestion it was written and to whom it is dedicated. Ripley's book appeared forty years ago, and Professor Coon offers its successor and namesake as "a textbook designed for the use of college students who have had or are taking a preliminary course in anthropology." The general field covered is the racial history and classification of the European or "white" representatives of the great Caucasoid branch of humanity, though consideration is by no means limited to a single continent and parts of Asia and Africa receive a systematic treatment.

While it is indispensable as a work of reference, one would hesitate to recommend the new *Races of Europe* for consumption by a student novice. Many of the statements advanced as though already demonstrated are still highly controversial and often the expression of no more than *ex parte* opinions. There is also little doubt that some of Professor Coon's innovations in terminology will be far from acceptable to the faculty, though a similar fate has befallen several pioneering efforts in the same direction. Such are the major shortcomings of this otherwise truly encyclopædic study. Its merits are freedom from any sort of racial bias, ample documentation and a most useful glossary of technical terms.

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Thompson, Edgar T. (Editor). *Race Relations and the Race Problem: A Definition and an Analysis.* Durham, N. Carolina, Duke University Press; London, Cambridge University Press, 1939. Price 17s. 6d.

SINCE all over the world there are large populations of distinctly diverse origin living side by side and intermarrying, the question of race and racial relations is not only of peculiar but also of universal interest. Inasmuch, however, as its meaning and significance in any one society are to be measured by the particular nature of that society, it is both a sociological and a biological problem. If the eleven authorities who contribute to this symposium appear to dwell on the former aspect to the complete exclusion of

the latter, it is not perhaps altogether surprising, for the editor in his introductory remarks makes their position clear. "In a social sense a racial group is one whose members are treated as such, believe themselves to be such, and behave as such. The race and the relations seem to be born together. The character of the relations, and hence the character of the race, is not predetermined by the traits of biological inheritance of the peoples concerned, but results from the special circumstances of historical accident and geographical limitation in the situation in which contacts are established and maintained."

With the exception of the opening chapter, an admirable summary and short historical review of the subject contributed by that veteran sociologist Professor Robert E. Park, the authors are mainly concerned with the side of the problem with which they are doubtless most familiar, that of racial symbiosis and miscegenation in the North American continent. The example chosen is indeed worthy of special attention. In the United States and Canada there are at present some twelve million people of Negroid origin alone, as well as a number of other racial representatives, a very substantial minority among the predominant "white" population. The nature of this minority, and its political, social and biological effect upon the numerically and economically superior "Europeans," is obviously of very considerable moment. The question of primary interest, the population trend of "whites" and "blacks," and the future racial composition of the countries concerned, is discussed with praiseworthy lucidity by Professor S. J. Holmes in a chapter entitled "The Trend of the Racial Balance of Births and Deaths." Elsewhere, the same author has suggested that there are four ways in which the racial struggle can work out. The entire population may become "black"; it may become "white"; "whites" and "blacks" may fuse into a hybrid stock; or the two populations may become permanently segregated in a biological if not necessarily in a geographical sense. In the present instance, Professor Holmes's conclusion, after a careful

study of specific birth-rates, age compositions and mortality statistics of both groups in urban and rural areas, is wisely non-committal. At the same time, he points out that, whereas the crude birth-rates of both populations now run practically together, the mortality rate of the Negro has much greater potentialities for decrease. Indeed, as the Negro attains a higher standard of hygiene, and becomes more inured to "white" diseases, etc., the eventual course of his mortality rate is likely to drop to a marked degree. The ultimate relative composition of both groups is therefore bound up with these and other less ponderable factors, such as the future agricultural policy to be adopted in the Southern States, where the Negro is most prolific.

Viewing the question from the sociological angle, as they do, the authors naturally have much to say about the observable social and economic consequences of culture-contact, and are concerned more with "status," "social distance" and "racial attitudes" than with problems of genetics and biology. Nevertheless, in the light of Professor Holmes's third possibility, the rise of a hybrid stock, it seems curious that so little attention is paid to the purely biological implications of the situation. That racial intermixture brings forth new social types and new social strata, the mulatto, a "buffer class," and so on, one is fully prepared to recognize. Where we still lack adequate knowledge, however, is in regard to the actual physical and physiological results of miscegenation, particularly in so far as first generation crosses are concerned. Does a new "racial" as well as a new "social" type emerge, how far can that type be regarded as standardized, and, most important, are its intellectual and bodily characteristics inherently superior, or not, to those of its begetters? All these are questions which emphatically cannot be answered merely by reference to or consideration of social factors and historical accident; and excellently as the contributors deploy and analyze the very illuminating cultural evidence to hand, there is somehow a sense of incompleteness that attaches to a work on race and race

relations which omits any serious reference to the eugenic side of its subject-matter. Environment, one agrees, is likely to be an influential foster-parent to the child; that she is also its uterine mother seems still more than a little dubious.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Vernon, Philip E., M.A., Ph.D. *The Measurement of Abilities.* London, 1940. The University of London Press. Pp. 308. Price 10s. 6d. net.

THE measurement of abilities is a vital part of the work of all teachers, vocational guiders and many medical practitioners. Consideration of the measurements made is important to employers, parents, social workers and sociologists. But until recently even the most scientifically careful among us have been content with standards of measurement which were scandalously inaccurate. We neither knew what we were measuring or how, exactly, we were measuring it. In recent years a good deal of research into the statistics of mental measurement and into the content of tests and examinations has been undertaken. Much of this is, however, of considerable theoretical complexity, and beyond the reach of those not mathematically inclined, or whose own training was finished before the newer methods were developed. The material is, moreover, largely scattered among many British and American periodicals, and difficult of access.

Dr. Vernon's book begins with an exposition of the statistical theory necessary for anyone responsible for either examining or mental testing, and goes on to discuss the validity and reliability of various systems of marking and of the diagnostic and prognostic value of most of the better-known types of mental tests and ordinary examinations. It is written primarily for teachers, psychologists and doctors, and has the very great merit of being the work of a teacher who really understands the difficulties of his pupils—one of the rarest attributes among teachers of mathematics. So often the first